

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election, when juxtaposed with its earlier decision not to air ABC network's listing in honor of the American soldiers who had died in Iraq, is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. However, when large companies control the airwaves, they are more concerned with what's good for their bottom line and less concerned with what is good for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.